

A NEW HELICHRYSUM FROM SOUTH AFRICA

by

M. de WINTER - HENDERSON (Pretoria)Helichrysum arenicola M. D. Henderson, spec. nov.

§ *Annua* Moeser, *H. micropoides* DC. (probabiliter = *H. namaquense* Schlechter et Moeser) affine, sed plantis plerumque erectis, dense foliatis, foliis linearibus vel lanceolatis, basi latis vel subauriculatis, non obovatis nec ad basin amplexicaulem angustatis, glomerulis capitulisque maioribus, involucri bracteis flavidis, apice late obtusis vel subtruncatis differt.

Planta erecta vel suberecta annua vel subperennis, caulibus ramosis numerosis ad 15 cm longis ex apice radice longae ortis. Caulis et rami graciles rigidi dense albi-lanati glabrescentes. Folia alterna linearia vel lanceolata sessilia amplexicaulia basi subauriculata, ad 8 mm longa, 1,5 mm lata viridia sparse lanati-pubescentia dense glandulosa. Capitula cylindrica, 2,5 - 3 mm longa, 1,5 mm lata, 5 - 10-nim in glomerulis terminalibus ad 1 cm diametentibus dense foliis cinctis disposita. Involucri bractee 4 - 5-seriatae, exterioribus brevioribus leviter pubescentibus flavidis vel stramineis nitidis oblongis vel subspathulatis obtusis vel subtruncatis apicibus membranaceis magnis. Flores 18 - 20 hermaphroditi; corolla anguste cylindrica 2,5 - 3 mm longa lobis 0,25 mm longis leviter patentibus extus glandulis stipitatis instructis. Achaenia 0,5 mm longa 4 - 5-angulata aurei-brunnea glabra vel dense glandulosa. Pappus setosus setis tenuibus albis caducis.

Erect to suberect annuals (or possibly short-lived perennials) with many branched stems, up to 15 cm long, arising from the apex of long tap-roots. Stems and branches slender, wiry, densely white-woolly, glabrescent. Leaves alternate, linear to lanceolate, sessile, clasping and subauriculate at the base, up to 8 mm long, 1,5 mm broad, green, thinly woolly pubescent, densely glandular.

Capitula cylindrical, 2, 5 - 3 mm long, 1, 5 mm broad, in terminal glomerules up to 1 cm in diameter, consisting of 5 - 10 individuals closely surrounded by leaves. Involucral bracts in 4 - 5 rows, outer shorter and slightly pubescent, yellowish to straw-colored, shiny, oblong to sub-spathulate, obtuse to sub-truncate, with large membranous apices. Florets 18 - 20, all hermaphrodite, corolla narrowly cylindrical, 2, 5 - 3 mm long, lobes 0, 25 mm long, slightly spreading, with stipitate glands outside. Achenes 0, 5 mm long, spindle-shaped, 4 - 5-angled, golden brown, quite glabrous or densely glandular. Pappus of fine, white, caducous bristles.

Orange Free State: Fauresmith Distr., Bestersput near Petrusburg, M. HENRICI 4365 (+); Jacobsdal Distr., Riek River Expt. Station, V. D. LINDE s. n. (+).

Northern Cape: Herbert Distr., Eureka, J. P. H. ACOCKS 8755 (+); Thornhill, c. 8 mil. E. of Salt Lake, O. A. LEISTNER 1285 (+). Kimberley Distr., near Boshof Rd., Kimberley, J. P. H. ACOCKS 723 (+); Zandbult, 20 mil. N. E. Douglas, O. A. LEISTNER 1551 (PRE, Holotype); 1 mil. N. of Rivermead Station, O. A. LEISTNER 2018 (+). Gordonia Distr., Kalahari Gemsbok National Park, A. M. BRYNARD 389; Sewe Panne, P. J. BARNARD 736; 15 mil. N. N. W. of Mata Mata, O. A. LEISTNER 1484.

South West Africa: Rehoboth Distr., 4, 5 mil. S. E. Kalkrand, J. P. H. ACOCKS 18137; 5, 7 mil. S. Kalkrand, B. DE WINTER 3504. Gobabis Distr., 12 mil. S. E. P. O. Pretorius in ABC Block between Nossob River, Bechuanaland, L. E. CODD 5844.

H. arenicola bears a superficial resemblance to *H. ericaefolium* Less. and *H. dregeanum* Harv. & Sond. but both the latter are shrubby perennials with different involucral bracts.

Due to the poor representation of § *Annua* in PRE it has not been possible to check whether the phenomenon of both glabrous and glandular achenes in a single species is unique to *H. arenicola* in this section. There is, however, no other character on which to separate the specimens with glabrous achenes from those with glandular achenes. The specimens marked with (+) in the citations have glandular achenes, and it will be noticed that they occur in the southern regions of the distribution range. No plant has been found to bear both types of achenes.